

Office of the Governor

March 28, 2006

Jack Troyer, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
Intermountain Region
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

Bob Bennett, Wyoming State Director
Bureau of Land Management
P O Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003


Dear Mr. Troyer and Director Bennett:

I have recently learned that the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to offer 19,000 acres within the Wyoming Range of the Bridger-Teton National Forest for oil and gas leasing April 4. This proposed sale follows a contentious lease sale held in December, which has been the subject of formal appeals. I ask that the April sale be suspended until such time as the December sale appeals are resolved.

All told, 44,000 acres have been slated for oil and gas leasing in the Bridger-Teton. Such leasing has raised the ire of a varied range of groups and constituencies. In the spirit of administrative and judicial economy, and with the knowledge that there are likely to be a significant number of substantively and procedurally similar appeals that come as a result of all future leasing in the Bridger-Teton, it seems logical to resolve the December sale appeals before offering additional parcels for lease. To do otherwise will be perceived by many as a predetermination of the existing appeals.

The Wyoming Range is of great importance to the people of Wyoming, and I would like to ensure that their interests are appropriately and completely addressed.

Best regards,


Dave Freudenthal
Governor

DF:LA:pjb